(ii) Export assistance to defray a part of expenditure on internal transport, marketing and handling charges and ocean freight @ Rs. 1350/- per tonne for sugar factories located in coastal areas and Rs. 1450/- per tonne for sugar factories located in non-coastal areas (subject to actuals for export by road/rail to neighbouring countries) have been announced for a period of one year with effect from 19th April, 2007. The amount involved is Rs. 205 crore (approximately) which is to be borne from Sugar Development Fund. The export assistance is also to be used exclusively for cane price arrears payment.

(iii) Ban on export of sugar has been removed in January, 2007 and requirement of obtaining an export release order for export of sugar except for exports to EU countries and USA has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 31.07.2007, for the current and next sugar season.

The above assistance would help all sugar mills in the country including sugar mills of Karnataka.

Privatization of Delhi Milk Scheme

†1996. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to hand over Delhi Milk Scheme to some private companies;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no plan to hand over Delhi Milk Scheme to private companies. However, Union Cabinet has approved in principally, corporatisation of DMS.

Adulterated fertilizers

1997. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of adulterated fertilizer is being distributed and sold in Madhya Pradesh which causes hardships to the farmers; and

(b) if so, what is the monitoring mechanism proposed by Government to the States when allotment of fertilizers is made by the Central Government through their agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Government. However, Madhya Pradesh Government has reported that 429 samples have been found non-standard during 2007-08.

(b) Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 strictly stipulates that the fertilizers which meet the standards of quality laid down in the Order are only allowed to be manufactured/imported in the country and sold to the farmers. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against those found indulged in production and sale of non standard fertilizers under the provisions of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985/Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Increase in the milk prices

1998. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that milk is the best to recover from physical exercise of day long labour by the poor;

(b) if so, whether Government, on the other hand, are regularly increasing the cost of milk in the Capital to the disadvantage of the common people; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The milk is considered as a wholesome food and not a source of instant energy. However, it is best-suited food for people doing physical exercise/day long labour.

(b) Milk prices in the Capital are decided by various organizations like Mother Dairy, Delhi Milk Scheme, State Federations, private suppliers depending upon their costs of production and procurement.

(c) The Government is regularly reviewing the availability of milk and recently banned export of milk powder to ensure availability of adequate quantity of milk at reasonable prices.

India's position in agricultural production

†1999. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the position India occupies at present in the field of agricultural production in the world;

(b) the position of India in terms of production of wheat, rice, cotton and pulses in the world;

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government during the two years of 2007-08 and 2008-09 to make India a frontline country in the field of agricultural production;

(d) whether Government have adequate stock of foodgrains; and

(e) if not, the reasons which are responsible for this shortage of foodgrains, and the steps proposed to be taken to meet this shortage?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.